State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

REVISED

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
December 8, 2004

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RAMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, HANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SAN DIEGO COUNTY (tentative Order No. R9-2004-0409) (*Bryan Ott*)

PURPOSE: If adopted, tentative Order No. R9-2004-0409 would establish waste discharge requirements for the treatment and on-site disposal of domestic wastewater generated by the newly constructed Hanson Elementary School on Boundary Avenue in Ramona.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The agenda notice for the December 8, 2004 Regional Board meeting that was mailed on November 19, 2004 served as the required 10-day public notice for this item. Copies of tentative Order No. R9-2004-0409 were mailed to the discharger and interested parties on November 19, 2004.

DISCUSSION: On June 3, 2004, the Ramona Unified School District (hereinafter District) submitted to this Regional Board an incomplete Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) prepared by Foley and Lardner, LLP on behalf of the District for a proposed advanced on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system. Additional documentation to complete the RWD was submitted through September 2, 2004. The District filed a notice of determination with the County Recorder's office on October 11, 2000. The Notice of Determination indicated that, based on the findings of the Negative Declaration prepared for the project, the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. The system has been designed to treat a maximum of 3,645 gallons per day. Treated effluent is to be discharged in the Ramona Hydrologic Sub-Area (HSA 905.41) of the Santa Maria Valley Hydrologic Area (HA 905.40) of the San Dieguito Hydrologic Unit (HU 905.00). The school will serve approximately 750 students and have a faculty of 60 persons. The school is scheduled to open in January 2005.

Prior to issuance of the tentative order, some of the neighbors near

the new school site raised concerns regarding the proposed method and design of the wastewater treatment and disposal system for the project. Issues under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board were addressed in the conditions and requirements of the tentative order and in the monitoring and reporting requirements. The neighbors have been informed of those issues outside the jurisdiction of the Regional Board and advised of other means of having those issues addressed.

The RWD indicates that the proposed wastewater treatment and disposal system consists of one 2,000-gallon grease interceptor for the cafeteria, a 12,000-gallon primary settling tank (septic tank), four P80 Pirana denitrification units placed in the primary settling tank, two AX100 packed bed trickling filters, one 5,000 gallon recirculation tank, one 5,000 gallon dosing tank, and a subsurface drip disposal system.

The District has indicated that the subsurface drip disposal system is designed with the capability to rotate disposal zones as needed. This procedure will ensure even distribution of wastewater throughout the leach field and avoid over saturation of a particular area. The effluent is dispersed from the subsurface emitters via pressure. The disposal field is to be divided into four drip irrigation zones located at the southern end of the school. A chain link fence will be constructed around the disposal fields to prevent vandalism and trespassing.

The District has indicated that the treatment and disposal system will be unaffected by adverse weather, such as a prolonged rain event and/or rising groundwater. Models provided by the District using 100-year flood conditions illustrate that the required five-foot separation distance from the root zone of the disposal area and the historical high groundwater level will be maintained in such an event and that precautions have been taken to seal the collection and treatment components against inflow and infiltration.

The District will operate or procure a contractor to operate and maintain the wastewater treatment system and subsurface drip disposal system.

The effluent specifications contained in Tentative Order No. R9-2004-0409 for the discharge of treated wastewater to the land were developed using water quality data supplied in the RWD and the assessment of available assimilative capacity of the soil and groundwater such that groundwater would not exceed Basin Plan water quality objectives.

A monitoring and reporting program that includes groundwater monitoring to be able to evaluate impacts to the underlying groundwater is also proposed for adoption with the tentative order.

Comments on the tentative Order were received (copies attached). Staff considered the comments, and responses to the comments were sent to the discharger and interested parties. An errata sheet has been prepared containing proposed revisions to the tentative Order in response to some of the comments received as well as additions and clarifications from staff. The revisions are minor and have no impact on the intent of the tentative Order. Copies of the errata sheet, responses to comments, and transmittal letter are attached.

KEY ISSUE: The District has informed the Regional board that students will be transferred to the Hanson School in January 2005 regardless of adoption of the tentative order by the Regional Board. If the tentative Order is not adopted by the time students are transferred to the school, the District will need to consider alternative methods of wastewater disposal.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Facility location maps
2. Tentative Order No. R9-2004-0409 with transmittal letter
3. **Transmittal letter for responses to comments and errata sheet dated December 3, 2004.**
4. **Responses to comments**
5. **Errata sheet containing proposed revisions to tentative Order R9-2004-0409.**
6. **Comment letter dated November 29, 2004 from John C. Lemmo of Foley and Lardner LLP.**
7. **Comment letter dated November 29, 2004 from Charles W. Apgar.**

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2004-0409 with errata is recommended.